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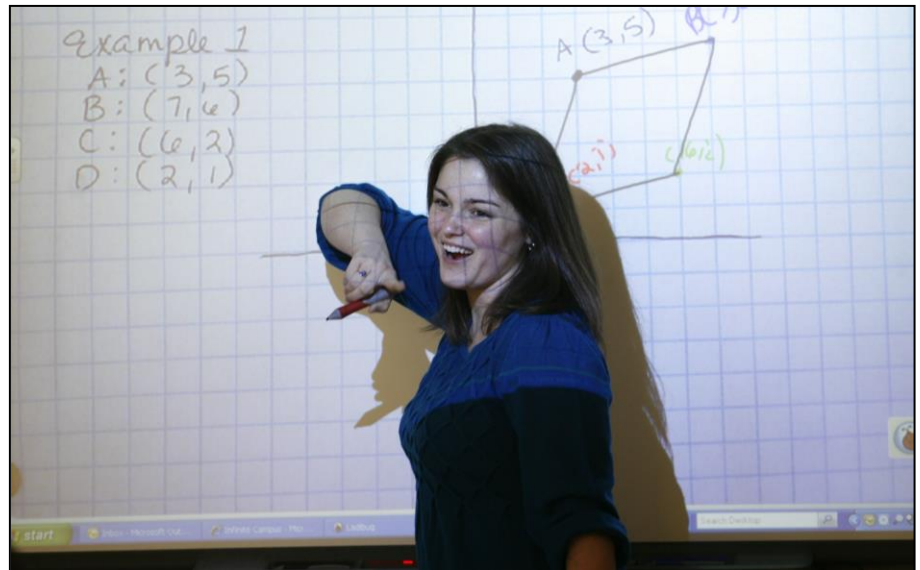
News for a child's most important educator

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AP courses, AdvanceKentucky spell success for students

Kentucky students who enroll in [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) courses in high school are better prepared for college, need little or no remediation and perform better in their postsecondary studies than students who do not take AP classes, according to [data](#) released recently. The information affirms national evidence that shows a significant and positive long-term effect for students who take AP classes in high school.

A review of Kentucky data also shows that students who enroll in Kentucky high school AP classes that are part of the [AdvanceKentucky](#) initiative earn significantly more qualifying scores on AP mathematics, science and English exams, which can earn a student college credit, compared to students taking the same AP courses nationwide.

For the past five years, AdvanceKentucky, a statewide mathematics and science initiative, has expanded access to, participation in and the success rate of Kentucky students taking AP classes, especially among those who are traditionally underserved and underrepresented in Advanced Placement courses. A total of 88 Kentucky high schools in 67 districts have participated in AdvanceKentucky since its inception in 2008; more than 2,500 pre-AP mathematics, science and English teachers statewide have taken advantage of Advance Kentucky's summer training program.

New to ParentInfo?

[Click here](#) to sign up to receive this newsletter twice a month. For more information, contact Susan Riddell at susan.riddell@education.ky.gov or at (502) 564-2000.

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NAGB Parent Summit Jan. 13

Parents can listen in on the National Assessment Governing Board's Education Summit for Parent Leaders - a gathering of parent leaders from across the U.S. talking, listening and learning about the best ways to raise student achievement.

Register to watch the live stream Jan. 13, 2014 and hear national leaders address the state of education at www.nagb.org/parent-education-summit/livestream-registration.html.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan will participate in the event, which begins at 9 a.m. EST.

The purpose of this summit is to address the urgent need to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps by race, ethnicity and income.

Other experts also will provide presentations from different perspectives including economic, demographic, societal, national security and civil rights.

State and local education leaders will discuss why improving achievement is important and what parent leaders can do to help.

Success, from Page 1

A comparative data review indicates that AdvanceKentucky schools increased the number of qualifying AP scores - three or higher on a five-point scale - up to 18 times faster than national averages.

Among the schools that have completed three years in AdvanceKentucky, the number of qualifying scores increased by 229 percent. The number of qualifying scores quintupled among both minority and low income students.

Coupled with sustained annual growth in these scores, Kentucky's statewide performance in all AP subjects increased by 100 percent and by 137 percent among minority students between 2008 and 2013.

In cooperation with AdvanceKentucky and the Kentucky Department of Education, the [Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics](#) conducted a review of student performance from high schools in the first three groups that partnered with AdvanceKentucky compared with graduates statewide in the class of 2011.

Results point to a clear competitive advantage for college readiness and success that students gain from having an AP experience as part of the AdvanceKentucky initiative.

- On average, AdvanceKentucky students earned higher PLAN and ACT scores and gained more than twice the number of points from 10th grade PLAN to 11th grade ACT.
- After AdvanceKentucky high school students enrolled in college, their need for remedial classes was 67 percent less than their peers.
- AdvanceKentucky students earned a higher average fall semester college grade point average (GPA) and exceeded the 2.5 GPA required to retain Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship money.

Value of AP experience	AdvanceKentucky	Comparison group
Test point gain: PLAN to ACT	3.1 (Score of 20.1 to 23.2)	1.4 (Score of 16.9 to 18.3)
Percent needing college remediation	10.6 percent	32.4 percent
First semester college GPA	2.77	2.37

Low income, African American and Hispanic students participating in AP classes at AdvanceKentucky schools experienced the same pattern of higher performance and far fewer remedial needs in college.

Numerous research studies confirm that college readiness and higher performance in the first year of college sets students on a critical path to degree completion.

A recent U.S. Department of Education [blog](#) featured the AdvanceKentucky initiative and its benefits.

An annual review of AdvanceKentucky data will track student performance through college and serve as the basis of a longitudinal study on the benefits and effectiveness of the AdvanceKentucky project.

AdvanceKentucky is an initiative of the [Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation](#) in partnership with the [Kentucky Department of Education](#) and the [National Math and Science Initiative](#).

Holliday named new CCSSO president

Education Commissioner Terry Holliday has assumed the role of president of the [Council of Chief State School Officers](#) (CCSSO).

"I am proud and very humbled to serve this outstanding organization," Holliday said. "If you look at the accomplishments of CCSSO over the last five to six years, you see an organization that is certainly a strong leader in public education."

The Council of Chief State School Officers is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy and technical assistance on major educational issues.

Holliday said as president of CCSSO, he will continue to push for action on education issues of importance. During the upcoming year, he intends to focus on communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation and career-readiness. Holliday hopes his work with CCSSO will not only have an impact on the future of children in Kentucky, but also make a difference for the future of millions of children across the nation.



Terry Holliday

Influenza level raised to widespread in Kentucky

Public Health urges vaccination for those needing one

Kentucky Department of Public Health (DPH) officials recently reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the influenza (flu) activity level in Kentucky has increased from regional to widespread.

Widespread activity is the highest level of flu activity, which indicates increased flu-like activity or flu outbreaks in at least half of the regions in the state. The activity levels for states are tracked weekly as part of the CDC's national flu surveillance system.

The flu season can begin as early as October and last through May. If your child didn't receive a flu shot earlier in the school year, it's not too late for your child to get one. January is still a good time to get vaccinated against the flu because peak activity often comes in the early months of the year. Vaccination can be given any time during the flu season, and there is a plentiful vaccine supply this season.

Since it takes approximately two weeks for vaccine to become fully effective, Kentuckians should not delay vaccination, said Dr. Stephanie Mayfield, who is the commissioner of DPH.

Flu is a very contagious disease caused by the flu virus, which spreads from person to person. A school is an easy place for this to occur, so make sure your child is protected as classes resume for the second half of the school year. For more information the availability of flu vaccine, contact your local health department or visit <http://healthalerts.ky.gov>.

IN BRIEF

Click on these links to read more about what's happening in Kentucky education.

[Kentucky wins national child nutrition award](#)

Kentucky Department of Education's Division of School and Community Nutrition recently received an award for outstanding service in child nutrition.

[Kentucky sixth in 2013 NBCT results](#)

Recently, 258 Kentucky teachers achieved National Board Certification.

Kentucky ranked sixth in the number of teachers earning 2013 certification. National Board Certification shows that teachers have attained the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for 21st century success.

[Prichard Committee report focuses on teaching quality](#)

Expanding Kentucky's workforce of high-quality teachers is the focus of a Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence report.

The report was the result of a 14-month review of issues related to high-quality teaching by the committee's Team on Teacher Effectiveness.

Alum recommends GCIPL for all parents

Amy Quinn is a 2013 [Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership](#) Northern Kentucky Fellow and mother of two. She is a stay-at-home mom and active volunteer at Fort Wright Elementary School (Kenton County) and, in her spare time, writes for [FamilyFriendlyCincinnati.com](#). Here are several excerpts from a recent blog entry she wrote for the Prichard Committee. To see the complete entry, click [here](#).

At a monthly PTA meeting a fellow member presented her proposal to create a "Go Green Science Night" at the school as her Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (GCIPL) project. As she explained to us what GCIPL was, I became intrigued.

This program, class or whatever it was, seemed to be a way to take my own parent involvement a step further; a way to get more involved and possibly better educated about the way our educators teach our children and administrators make decisions for our students.

I was accepted to the 2013 Northern Kentucky session of the Governor's Institute for Parent Leadership and began a new journey, one that would open my eyes and give me the opportunity to take my parent involvement a step further.

Yes, it was a lot of information. The thing was, I never felt intimidated by it, never felt that I was in too deep and never felt that I would fail. I was led through the maze of educational jargon and acronyms masterfully by a team of amazing people.

Common Core, learning styles, CSIPs, IEPs, school report cards, delivery targets, AMOs, KCAs; those all are part of my personal lexicon now. Presenters from the [Prichard Committee, Kentucky Department of Education](#) and many more community members and partners, went above and beyond to present us with information that would enable us to navigate the sea of educational jargon in order to not only become more involved parents and caregivers ourselves, but to help uninvolved parents in our schools and communities find ways to become involved as well.

My fellow GCIPL participants and I shared our own experiences with education, learned how our school's learning environment differed from our fellows in the room, discovered how many varied and wonderful reasons we all had for sitting in those seats next to each other, learned how our own personal learning styles affect our learning process.



LEARN MORE: [Click here](#) to apply or find out more information on GCIPL.

Click [here](#) to watch a video explaining the foundation of GCIPL from the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership and the Center for Parent Leadership. The clip includes testimonials from parents, educators and administrators.

We learned to read and understand the school report card, disaggregated data from state testing and Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). We learned how to take a table full of people with different backgrounds, learning styles and reasons for coming to the table, and facilitate a productive conversation.

I consider it the single best thing I may have ever done in relation to my children's education. I am armed now. I have the tools and knowledge I need to make sure that my children, and those in our schools, have the tools THEY need to succeed. I know how to ask questions and decipher the answers. I feel like an active participant in their education now - beyond homework, spelling lists and book reports. I have a team - an army, really - of fellow GCIPL graduates to help me along my way.

EVERY parent should have this opportunity.

If you are a parent like I was, doing everything you could do but wanting to do so much more, I encourage you to explore the [GCIPL website](#) and consider whether becoming a GCIPL Fellow might be right for you.

You really have everything to gain and nothing to lose.